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U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

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BROOKLYN OFFICE

Hon.  
Civil Action File No.

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**CV 09 - 5724**

SOL:JC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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HILDA L. SOLIS, Secretary of Labor,  
United States Department of Labor,

Plaintiff,

v.

CONTRACTORS BENEFIT TRUST,

Defendant.  
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SPATT, J.

TOMLINSON, M

Civil Action File

No.

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor (the  
"Secretary"), to the best of her knowledge, information, and belief alleges:

1. This action arises under Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§1001 *et seq.* and is brought by the Secretary against the Defendant, Contractors Benefit Trust to enjoin practices in violation of Title I and to obtain such further equitable relief as may be appropriate to redress violations and to enforce the provisions of Title I of ERISA.

## **PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

2. Defendant Contractors Benefit Trust (“CBT” or “the Trust”) is a fiduciary within the meaning of ERISA § 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. 1002(21)(A) in that it had discretionary authority over the management or administration of several employee welfare benefit plans as such plans are defined by ERISA §3(1), 29 U.S.C. §1002(1) and/or discretionary control over the assets of those employee welfare benefit plans. CBT was sponsored and financed by contributing employers in the construction and building trades predominantly in the metropolitan New York City and Long Island areas. CBT’s last known address was 570 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022. On information and belief, CBT used International Benefits Administrators LLC, located at 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 102, Garden City, New York 11530, to provide administrative services. CBT’s stated purpose was to take contributions from employers on behalf of their employees and use those contributions to pay supplemental benefits under applicable prevailing wage law and similar benefits in the nature of the medical, life insurance, dental, apprenticeship/training, disability, medical reimbursement, and/or like benefits required or permitted under other applicable law. CBT was established in or about 1993.

3. The employee welfare benefit plans named in this Paragraph below were established or maintained by employers in the construction and building trades when those employers contributed funds to CBT for the stated purpose of paying to pay supplemental benefits under applicable prevailing wage law and similar benefits in the nature of the medical, life insurance, dental, apprenticeship/training, disability, medical reimbursement, and/or like benefits required or permitted under other applicable law. These plans are accordingly employee welfare benefit plans under 29 U.S.C. § 1002(1), and subject to ERISA under 29 U.S.C. § 1003(a). The Plans are identified by employer and employer address as follows:

	COMPANY	ADDRESS	CITY	ST
1	Amma Construction	192 West 9th Street	Huntington Sta.	NY
2	Annex Restoration	308 McGuinness Blvd.	Brooklyn	NY
3	Applied Projects Company	51 Church Street	Freeport	NY
4	Aqua-X Conservation	251 53rd Street	Brooklyn	NY
5	B&A Demolition & Removal	70 New Street	Oceanside	NY
6	BMJ Construction	35 E. Grassy Sprain Rd, Ste 203	Yonkers	NY
7	DCI - Danaco Contractors, Inc.	325 Wyandanch Ave.	North Babylon	NY
8	DeLalio Coal & Stone	224A North Main St.	Southampton	NY
9	Down To Earth Golf Course Const.	P.O. Box 719	Harrison	NY
10	G&M Mechanical, Inc.	1866 Seaford Ave.	Wantagh	NY
11	G. Penza & Sons, Inc.	457 Brook Ave.	Deer Park	NY
12	Grimes Contracting	P.O. Box 5004	Montauk	NY
13	Hoffman Floor Covering Corp.	2 Commerce Drive	Farmingdale	NY
14	Imperial Development	931 Park State Road 434, Suite 401-239	Altamonte Springs	FL
15	Inter-Connection Electric	6821 Eighth Avenue	Brooklyn	NY
16	KJB Industries Inc.	70 Park Road	Riverhead	NY
17	Lipsky Enterprises, Inc.	814 Montauk Highway	Bayport	NY
18	Lockerworks Inc.	P.O. Box 5588	Bay Shore	NY
19	Maccarone Plumbing Inc.	10 Sea Cliff Ave.	Glen Cove	NY
20	Miller Environmental Group, Inc.	538 Edwards Ave.	Calverton	NY
21	MRC II Contracting	242 Nevins St.	Brooklyn	NY
22	Norco Ltd.	88 Garden St.	Garden City	NY
23	Parkset Plumbing Co.	1568 Atlantic Ave.	Brooklyn	NY
24	Preferred Plumbing & Heating	1 Beaver Dam Rd.	Islip	NY
25	Rasco Contracting Corp.	24 Prestwick Terrace	Glen Cove	NY
26	Riley Excavating & Contracting	195 South Denver Ave.	Bay Shore	NY
27	Roof Diagnostics/Damlin Ent.	9 Shen Court	East Setauket	NY
28	Rosemar Construction	56 Pine St.	East Moriches	NY
29	Serrot Construction/All American	77 Box St.	Brooklyn	NY
30	South Shore Docks Inc.	102 Old Country Rd. - P.O. Box 37	East Quogue	NY

31	Takbeer Enterprises	73 Provost Street	Brooklyn	NY
32	Thomas Erectors, Inc.	30 Montauk Blvd., Suite 3	Oakdale	NY
33	Utility Lining Corp.	1940 Deer Park Ave., Suite 333	Deer Park	NY
34	Z Restoration	1 Roslyn Lane	New City	NY

Additional employee welfare benefit plans administered by CBT in this case may become known as this case progresses.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to ERISA §502(e)(1), 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(1).

5. Venue with respect to this action lies in the Eastern District of New York pursuant to ERISA §502(e)(2), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2) because CBT and the Plans were administered in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of this Court.

6. The Plaintiff Secretary of Labor has authority to bring this civil action under ERISA §§502(a)(2) & (5), 29 U.S.C. §§1132(a)(2) &(5).

#### ALLEGATIONS

8. Steven Coren was Trustee of CBT. From in or about 1993 until the present time, Coren exercised discretionary authority over the management and administration of CBT and the Plans and/or discretionary control over the assets of CBT and the Plans. He was thus a fiduciary under ERISA § 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A) with respect to CBT and the Plans.

9. Coren has pled guilty to and is to be formally convicted and sentenced for violations of the statutes found at 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343, 1512, 1956(a)(3)(B), and 1956(h) on or about January 6, 2010, in the matter of U.S. v. Coren, 07-cr-265 (ENV).

10. By virtue of his conviction, Coren will become unable to continue functioning as a Trustee and fiduciary for any employee benefit plan subject to ERISA under ERISA § 411, 29 U.S.C. § 1111.

11. Under the terms CBT's governing document, a majority of the participating employers in CBT must designate a new trustee if the existing trustee sustains a legal disability.

12. On information and belief, CBT has not convened the participating employers or otherwise acted to secure a replacement trustee or named fiduciary to take Coren's place.

13. On information and belief, CBT is holding assets for the Plans and their rightful participants and beneficiaries in the amount of \$697,162, more or less.

#### **VIOLATIONS**

14. By the conduct and circumstances described in paragraphs 8-13, the Plans exist without an active named fiduciary and without their assets being held in trust by a trustee in violation of ERISA §§ 402 and 403, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1102 and 1103.

15. By the conduct and circumstances described in paragraphs 8-13, CBT has

- (a) failed to discharge its fiduciary duties with respect to the Plans solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants of the Plans and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plans, in violation of ERISA § 404(a)(1)(A)(i), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(A)(i); and,
- (b) failed to discharge its fiduciary duties with respect to the Plans solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries and with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an

enterprise of a like character and with like aims, in violation of ERISA § 404(a)(1)(B), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Wherefore, the Secretary prays for judgment:

- A. Appointing an independent trustee and fiduciary to administer CBT and the Plans and distribute the assets held by the Defendant to the proper participants and beneficiaries; and,
- B. Ordering such further relief as is appropriate and just.

DATED: December 30, 2009  
New York, New York

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Greenfield  
DEBORAH GREENFIELD

Acting Deputy Solicitor

Patricia M. Rodenhouse  
PATRICIA M. RODENHAUSEN

Regional Solicitor

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JC (2125)